



East Longmeadow Public Schools

"Our mission in the East Longmeadow Public Schools is to promote Achievement and Accountability in all endeavors as we educate today for the challenges of tomorrow."



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR SCHOOLS

Volume 5, Issue 2

SPRING, 2007

Ground breaking for new classrooms



It may have taken three attempts at three annual town meetings, but they say the best things in life are worth waiting for, and the new classrooms have started! On April 2, 2007, the official ground breaking was celebrated by the East Longmeadow School Committee and Superintendent Dr. Edward W. Costa II. General Contractor Resun Co., and School Committee architect John Strandberg, provided traditional gala hard hats and shovels for the official event. Also present were local dignitaries including Board of Selectmen James Driscoll, Chairman, and Jack Vil-

lamaino. State dignitaries included Representative Angelo Puppolo and Senator Gail Candaras.

The Town of East Longmeadow approved the construction of 12 new elementary classrooms last May, at the annual town meeting. In June, the Town passed a debt exclusion vote- which allowed the School Committee to proceed in hiring an architect, draw up construction documents, go out to bid, and award the bid. "Sometimes folks wonder why we are not moving forward, but these are the things they don't see" stated superin-

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A message from your School Committee Chair

This year has been fast and exciting. I don't remember a school year that has flown by so fast. Many changes took place this year, starting with our new Wellness policy for all students and staff. We also began construction for twelve new classrooms, four rooms each at Meadow Brook, Mapleshade and Mountain View Elementary Schools.

In addition to our annual financial audit, our school department faced two additional audits this year from the state, all scheduled by the state on a rotation basis, but they all hit at once. We were scheduled for the Department of Education Coordinated Program Review audit in September, and also the Legislative Educational Quality and Accountability audit in April.

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Endowment awards grants

This is the eleventh year that the East Longmeadow Educational Endowment Fund has awarded grants to teachers in our district. Each year educators are invited to submit proposals for projects and programs that are not funded by the school budget. This year the generosity of the community and the Endowment Committee has awarded \$20,000 in funding for ten grant proposals. Each of the five schools in the district received at least one grant, which ranged from three hundred dollars to four thousand dollars. A laptop and media projector for Career Center and Guidance workshops at the High School, robotics kits for Mountain View School, a geographical mapping skills unit for Birchland Park Middle School and leveled guided reading book sets for all three elementary schools are some of the projects that will now be available to East Longmeadow students because of the Endowment grants.

Teachers were presented the grants at the annual Endowment Dinner Dance held on March 3, 2007 at the Elmcrest Country Club. This year's event was "A Night of Comedy". After the awards presentation, two Boston area comedians entertained the audience. The evening ended with dancing and the annual silent auction. The generosity of the community was enriched by the excitement of this gala evening.

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High School principal receives Massachusetts Administrator of the Year award



Mr. Richard Freccero

Mr. Richard L. Freccero, East Longmeadow High School principal for 20 years, has been selected as the recipient of The Massachusetts School Counselors Association (MASCA)

2007 Administrator of the Year Award. He is cited as a leader that has the vision to see the connectedness between school counseling and the success

of all students. Recognized by his school counselors as an outstanding administrator, Mr. Freccero strongly supports the implementation of new programs to enhance the growth of the student body. He has collaborated with counselors to initiate both the 10th grade leadership curriculum as well as the 9th grade transition program. Mr. Freccero is viewed as a tireless advocate that promotes and facilitates the Guidance Department's movement towards both the State and National Models for Comprehensive Guidance. Overall, his leadership, encouragement, and willingness to be involved have made a significant contribution to the guidance and counseling movement in East Longmeadow and in the Commonwealth.

Middle school teachers give workshops

Teachers from Birchland Park Middle School recently presented workshops at the 26th Annual Conference of the New England League of Middle Schools in Providence, Rhode Island. This conference attracts 3000 middle level educators from throughout New England and other states who are seeking professional improvement opportunities on instructional, content, and pedagogical trends for teachers of adolescents. Nearly 100 educational vendors exhibit their products and services at this annual event as well.

Among the 263 concurrent workshops offerings were those of East Longmeadow staff Lynne Kerber and Christopher Tarvit: This is Jeopardy!®, using an interactive software program to motivate students; Cathy Hood and Suzanne Murphy: Healthy Kids, Healthy Staff, Healthy School!, promoting wellness across the curriculum; and David Axlerad and Lynne Kerber: Bringing literature into the Social Studies classroom.

Teachers recognized for excellence

Four East Longmeadow teachers will be among the thirty-six school communities in the Pioneer Valley honoring outstanding teachers for their tremendous commitment and impact on children in their schools for the 2006-2007 school year. This is the third year East Longmeadow Public Schools has participated in this awards ceremony, and is the fifth year for this outstanding program. Ms. Vicki LaRoche, from Meadow Brook Elementary School; Ms. Megan Bargatti, from Mountain View Elementary School; Ms. Amy Reynolds, from Mapleshade Elementary School; and Ms. Marie Matulewicz, from Mapleshade Elementary School will all be recognized as exemplary teachers by the foundation.

The Hampden County sponsors of the program are The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation, the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation, the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House, Mass Mutual Financial Group, Southworth Paper Company, Springfield Republican, WGBY Channel 57, Channel 40, Channel 22, Meyers Bros & Kalicka, STCU Credit Union, and the local YMCAs. The sponsors believe that teachers are very important in shaping the lives of children in the community and in the greater society in which they live. It is also their belief that we need to focus on, support, and encourage these extraordinary professionals who are expected to carry out multiple programs in very challenging settings in our society today.

This year's award celebration for Hampden County will be held on Thursday, May 10th, 2007 at the Log Cabin. Teachers will be honored from the school communities of East Longmeadow, the Jewish Schools of Western Massachusetts, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, Ludlow, Monson, New Leadership Charter School, Palmer, & Springfield. Each of the East Longmeadow teachers will receive 4 free tickets to the event, \$100 each for their classrooms, and \$500 each for him/herself, an engraved plaque, a membership to a local YMCA, an invitation to a year's membership in the WGBY Channel 57 Technology Program, a letter of commendation from the Governor, and other gifts. Congratulations East Longmeadow!

Summer MAGIC at Mountain View again this year

The Summer MAGIC at Mountain View program is kicking off for its second year this July. This exciting program has been designed to support students entering grades three, four and five to maintain their levels of learning over the summer months. Enrichment activities compliment relaxed classroom experiences to provide a week full of fun.

This year there will be two week long sessions offered for **incoming fourth and fifth graders:**

July 23-27 – Fairy Tale Rock – exploring old fairy tales - spicing up new ones

July 30 – Aug. 3 – Gear Up – creating and working with simple machines

There will also be two week long sessions for **incoming third graders:**

Aug. 6-10 – Poem-mania – reading and writing funny poems together

Aug. 13-17 – Flower Power - Growing plants - learning about living things

Many students who attended the program last year said one of the best parts was sharing their work with their parents and families on the last day! Brochures have been sent home to all current second, third and fourth graders. Registration deadline is May 11th. Contact Mountain View School, 525-5490, if you have any questions or need another brochure.

Wellness policy instituted

East Longmeadow Public Schools instituted their new Wellness Policy in August of 2006, as required by Section 204 of Public Law 108-265 of the Federal Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act. Now, after one school year, the School Committee continues to monitor its implementation. "Students and staff have followed the policy extremely well", states Superintendent Dr. Ed Costa. "It was a big change for all of us". Although the law only requires the policy to direct students, the entire faculty and staff joined in as "role models" for all of the students. Absent from school buildings this year are coke machines, candy and chips vending machines, and such, and in their place you now find water drinks, fruit drinks, and healthy foods instead. The school district convened a committee of parents and professionals from outside the school district to help monitor this new policy. The group, known as the Health Advisory Committee, is in charge of monitoring and giving feedback to the administration and School Committee. "All in all, this first year has been much smoother than we all expected. Our students and families understand the need for healthy eating and healthy living" stated School Committee Chairman Robert Mazzariello.

MPTV airs character traits

Mapleshade students have a new way to share what they have learned about Character Education. Many of you know that our town has established nine character traits that all graduates of the East Longmeadow school system are expected to exemplify. Those traits are Honesty, Responsibility, Empathy, Caring, Inclusive, Perseverance, Courage, Respect, and Kindness. Each year, teachers develop ways to integrate these district character traits into their lessons and help the students to continue developing these traits throughout the year. This year, each classroom signed up for a character trait which they would portray in an action project or performance.

Thanks to a donation by the East Longmeadow Jaycees, Mapleshade students have an opportunity to write short programs that air throughout the building on closed circuit television called Mapleshade Public Television or MPTV. Each month, the whole school watches a broadcast that highlights the character trait for that month. These broadcasts are developed by students and have included Coats for Kids to exemplify Caring, a play about Courage, playground skits portraying Inclusiveness and Kindness, a Respect hero, and a class song modified to reflect Perseverance. Later in the year, Honesty, Empathy and Responsibility will be highlighted on the MPTV shows.

Mountain View after school program a big success

This year, Mountain View School has been a very busy place after school! Donna Imelio, Treasurer of the PTO, has worked hard this year with other PTO volunteers to provide a wide range of after school activities for the Mountain View students. Programs have included a week long cartooning class, arts and crafts activities (beading and pottery), team building projects using K'Nex, decorating and planting flower pots for Mother's Day and our traditional SLIME program.

The two biggest projects were creating a school newspaper and putting together a student Talent Show. Both of these projects involved many students and many volunteer hours. Both projects were incredibly successful. When The Mountain View News put out a call for student reporters, ninety students signed up for the job. Mrs. Imelio, with the help of Mr. Held, parent and Republican

Sports Reporter, and other parent volunteers divided these students into six groups and created six editions of the newspaper. Mr. Held helped the students to understand the demands of the job from being assigned a story, doing interviews, gathering information, writing and editing stories and meeting deadlines. Each edition was filled with personal interest stories, sports and games. All anxiously awaited each edition.

The second biggest undertaking was our student run Talent Show. Students in all three grades were very excited to share their talents. After much practice and several rehearsals, the show was held on April 27th to a full house of family and friends. Students' talents included magic tricks, a jump rope team, and a homemade video of talented skateboarders, playing musical instruments, singing, and gymnastics. This year's character trait quilts were unveiled

as well that showed the whole school's artistic talent and work toward good citizenship. This exciting show will be performed a second time for students during the last days of school.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the PTO focus on providing activities for students after school was the tremendous response for all of the different programs offered, whether they were free or had a small charge, whether they had a one day commitment or required several days. Mrs. Imelio has already begun planning activities for next year including bringing the Junior Achievement program to the school in the fall. Many thanks go out to Mrs. Imelio, Mrs. Kirwan, Mrs. Singh, Mr. Held and all of the other volunteers who help make afternoons at Mountain View active, fun and filled with learning!

Transportation personnel receive safety training

On March 5, 2007 the Transportation Manager and the district's driver instructor attended the American Heart Association's Core Instructor Program. This means that they are now certified to teach First Aid and CPR for adults and children and also certified to train the use and administration of the AED—Automated External Defibrillator. They attended the course so that they could instruct our district's school bus drivers. Prior to their certification, High School nurses provided the training to our school bus drivers.

While it is not a legal requirement for school bus drivers to have First Aid or CPR training, the district has, for over nine years, taken a proactive roll in prevention by requiring all school bus drivers to become CPR and First Aid certified. With the growing number of students with food allergies, district school bus drivers are also required to attend bi-annual training for Epinephrine by Auto-Injection in Life Threatening

situations (emergency Epi-pen administration).

In March, a school bus driver used skills that she learned during her Epi-pen training to identify a student who was experiencing a serious allergic reaction. The driver noticed that a student rider had an unusual cough. After speaking with the student, the driver determined that the student was having breathing difficulty, possibly due to a life threatening allergic reaction, and she needed to take action. Following our district's established emergency protocol, the driver called 911. The student was taken off the bus by emergency medical technicians and transported to a local hospital by ambulance for successful treatment. The driver's quick response may have saved the student's life, for without her previous training, the driver may not have quickly recognized that this student was having a life threatening medical crisis.



Meadow Brook School holds first Family Reading Night



On Thursday, March 1, 2007, Meadow Brook School held its first Family Reading Night. This successful event was planned by Meadow Brook's reading teacher, Ellen Pieciul and parent volunteers. Over 400 parents and children came to listen to local children's' book author and illustrator

Jane Dyer. Jane enchanted the audience as she read aloud and talked about her illustrations. Both parents and children listened intently as they sat cozily on the floor for the reading of three stories. Books were available for purchase, orders were taken, and many, many books were graciously signed by our visiting author. Families then proceeded to several activities. Healthy snacks and drinks were available in the gym. Children made bookmarks during another activity. They also participated in a book swap. By all accounts, the evening was so successful that everyone is already talking about next year's event.

High School Advanced Placement Program recognized for excellence

The Advanced Placement Program has cited East Longmeadow High School as one of four schools in Western Massachusetts that performed exceedingly well on the exams administered last spring. Of local schools, East Longmeadow attained the highest percentage of examinations with a score of 3 or higher, with 89 percent out of 118 tests. This recognition could only be possible through the dedication and commitment of both teachers and students. We commend and extend congratulations to the following Advanced Placement teachers: Mr. Joseph Calabrese, AP English; Mr. Gilbert Gonsalves, AP Computer Science; Ms. Mary Jo Renear, AP Biology; Mr. Eliel Gonzalez, AP Calculus; Ms. Kristine Rueger, AP Psychology; Ms. Margaret Sullivan, AP Spanish and Ms. Cynthia Walsh, AP French.

(Continued from page 1) Ground breaking

tendent Costa. Now that shovels are in the ground, people will see weekly progress. Resun Co, the General Contractor, began staging equipment and installing construction fencing this week. They will actually be working on all three elementary campuses, Meadow Brook Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School, and Mapleshade Elementary School. Each school will be receiving four new elementary classrooms. The classrooms are permanent rooms made by modular design, just like the ones added five years ago at Meadow Brook. The construction contract states that all classrooms must be finished and ready for occupation by August 1, 2007.

(Continued from page 1) School Committee Message

Finally, our students won some very prestigious awards this year. And, our schools were recognized and awarded as well, the College Board AP program being just one of them. Also, two of our School Committee members were invited to speak at the annual National School Boards Association meeting in April. I'm proud of our school district and proud to say I live in East Longmeadow.

Robert Mazzariello, School Committee Chairman.

Local businesses generously support our schools

Schools are in the business of constantly looking for ways to improve. We work on improving student learning, teaching strategies and community relations as ways to improve the lives and learning of the students in our care. The School Advisory Council is one of the groups charged with focusing on school improvement.

This year the parents, staff and community members of the Mountain View School Advisory Council focused one of its goals on improving our involvement with local businesses. Thanks to Council Member Linda Raimondi, from Plastipak Packaging Inc., the Council established a very comprehensive goal of getting local businesses directly involved with our schools. The Council worked with the staff to create a "wish list" of needs. It included a wide variety of items such as office furniture, office supplies and people to come into our classrooms to talk about how they use science or math in their jobs. The list was sent out to businesses in East Longmeadow with an introductory letter written by Mrs. Raimondi and the Council. The response has been tremendous! We are very excited to say that local businessmen and women have been very responsive. We thank these businesses that have been so generous this year:

Elmcrest Country Club, 4-Some Gift Certificate; Carlin Combustion Technology Inc., copier; Home Healthcare, office supplies; Avery Dennison, office furniture; Source Two, partitions; Jen Champigny Decorating, consulting for staff room; Mrs. Mack and Mrs. Dempsey, classroom volunteers.

We are already looking at ways to get more business people involved with our school next year by bringing volunteers into classrooms to teach the Junior Achievement economics program.

Chamber partnership sponsors "Principals for a Day"

The long standing partnership between the East Longmeadow Chamber of Commerce and the ELPS has fostered a successful shadowing program for area business leaders. Called 'Principal for a Day', local business people have an opportunity to spend a day walking in the shoes of East Longmeadow's school principals. Working alongside the local administrators, these business leaders got a look at the inside track of MCAS administration, the every day workings of the school, parent outreach, instructional supervision, and of course, the busy routines of the cafeteria and lunch program. On March 20, these individuals added an educational flair to their own business expertise:

Superintendent:	David Leslie, Glendmeadow Retirement
High School:	Greg Pytko, Hasbro Games
Birchland Park:	Jessica Szczepanek, East Village Place
Mountain View:	John Downs, Peoples Bank
Mapleshade:	David Fuentes, Healthtrax
Meadow Brook:	Maureen Anderson, The Cruise Store
Career Center	Chris Buendo, Reminder Publications

School Committee Members:

Robert Mazzariello, Acting Chair
William Fonseca
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